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COCHIN
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION, 1117

Monday, *the* *16th February 1942*
5th Kumbham 1117

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at Eleven of the Clock with the Hon'ble the President (A. F. W. DIXON, Esq., I.C.S.), in the Chair.

Messrs. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan, L. M. Pylee, T. V. Subramania Ayyar, K. R. Viswambharan, the Commissioner of Excise and Mrs. C. R. Iyyunni were absent.

SWEARING IN

Messrs. M. D. Narayana Ayyar (Officiating Chief Engineer) and K. R. Achyutan (Member for Trichur-Ezhuvas) were sworn in.

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Mr. President: I had not intended to address Hon'ble Members at the beginning of this session, but in view of the grievous news just received of the fall of India's great bastion, Singapore, I feel that a few words are necessary.

The war is indeed now at our doors, and the Naval forces of the Japanese will, no doubt, make their presence felt to an increasing degree in the Indian Ocean. Now is the time not for panic or despair, but for staunchness and firm resolve.

In the summer of 1940 when France collapsed and Britain was left alone to face the mighty Axis war machine, the British people, far from giving way to panic or despair, rose to great heights of courage, determination and self-sacrifice. It is that spirit which is wanted here today. Everyone must play his part, whether by offering for war service, joining the special guards or the A. R. P. services, contributing to the War Fund or War Loans or allaying panic and preventing the spread of false rumours among the people.

Some may wonder why Singapore was not more strongly defended. The answer is that until recently Britain was at full stretch defending herself against Germany and Italy, and had to trust to the American fleet as the mainstay in the Far East. We know of the treacherous blow which so unexpectedly weakened that fleet for the time being. Its strength will be restored, and the tide in the Far East will turn.

The loss of Singapore is hard to bear, but this is a world war and as a world war is only just starting. Though we feel the loss of Singapore terribly because it affects each one of us, we have to realise that compared with June 1940 or even August 1941 when Mr. Churchill and Roosevelt met in the Atlantic, our prospects generally have much improved. Three-fourths of the world's population is combined against the aggressors, whose most powerful weapon the German Army, has been halted and driven back by the Gallant Red Army. The mighty American industrial machine is beginning its task of turning our munitions and ships on a vast scale. Dark clouds now surround us. But fair weather is ahead. So let us remain calm and determined, resolved that come what may we will do all that lies in us, along with our staunch allies in China, in U. S. A., in Russia and in the British Common-wealth, to defeat the forces of evil arrayed against us.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS IN THE STATE—GRANT OF ADDITIONAL GRANTS—INFORMATION REGARDING

136. Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: Will Government be pleased to State.—

(*a*) the names of Industrial Schools to which grant was first given or additional grant was given in the last three years;

(*b*) the amount of grant or additional grant given per annum in the case of each such school;

(*c*) the subjects that are being taught by the teachers towards whose pay fresh or additional grant was or is being paid?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development)*:

(*a*) (1) St. Joseph's Industrial School, Chethikode (2) Industrial School, Arimpur and (3) R.L.V. Industrial School, Trippunittura. The above schools were given additional grants also.